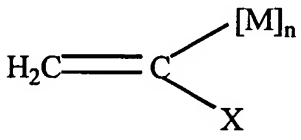
IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method for producing an aqueous resin dispersion composition comprising:

preparing a monomer mixture containing a first monomer having a carboxyl group and a second monomer having a hydrophobic group, the monomer mixture containing the first monomer in a proportion of 10 to 75% by mole;

forming a macromonomer by radical polymerizing the monomer mixture at a temperature of from 180 to 350°C, wherein the macromonomer has an ethylenically unsaturated bond at an end, represented by the following formula (1),



(1)

where X represents a polar group, M represents a monomer unit, and the character n stands for a natural number representing the degree of polymerization;

neutralizing the macromonomer to obtain a neutralized macromonomer having an ethylenically unsaturated bond at least at one end thereof; and

emulsion polymerizing at least one vinyl monomer in an aqueous solvent using the neutralized macromonomer as an emulsifier.

6. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein a base selected from the group consisting of ammonia and a low boiling-point amine compound having a boiling point of 140°C or lower is used in the neutralizing.

7. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the neutralized macromonomer has a number average molecular weight of 500 to 5000.

8. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the amount of the neutralized macromonomer used in the emulsion polymerizing is 0.5 to 80 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the vinyl monomer.

9. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the first monomer ias at least one compound selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, crotonic acid, vinylacetic acid, acryloxypropionic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, mesaconic acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, and maleic anhydride.

10. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the second monomer is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of monomers having solubility to water of 2% wt or less at 20°C.

11. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the macromonomer has ethylenically unsaturated bonds at least at two ends.